

Did the Romans eat pizza?

Over the term, the art and DT will be split starting off at looking at Roman mosaics, researching their importance and leading into creating their own.

The second half term will then start by researching some of the main foods of the Roman times. We will make some Roman bread and finish off by making homemade pizza (not quite Roman!).

In this unit children will:

- Be able to research and find facts out about Roman mosaics and their importance in the Roman times.
- The children will find out about how the mosaics were made and what they were made of.
- We will look into the Roman home, Roman baths and other places where mosaics were important features.
- The children will get to design their own mosaic using important pictures from their lives.
- We will be researching different Roman food and finding out how the Romans lived, cooked and ate.
- The Romans ate like us and ate a breakfast, lunch and dinner. We are going to have a look to see if we eat similar things.
- We will be making some Roman foods from old recipes and making some rustic Italian pizzas.

Prior Learning

Year 1 Baking healthy products

Year 2 Pencil/sketching skills

Cross Curricular Links

History – linking to our topic of the Romans.

Literacy – instruction writing.

Key Vocabulary

- **Mosaic** – a very decorative, usually floor piece which became famous during the Roman times.
- **Tesserae** – the way in which the stones and gems fitted together to create the inspired mosaic designs.
- **Stones and gems** – the small coloured pieces used to create mosaics.
- **Mortar** – the cement used to stick the gems and stones together to create the mosaic.
- **Bathhouses** – one of the main places where mosaics were famously found and used as a decorative piece.
- **Craftsmen** – the people who created mosaics.
- **Mythology** – the stories where a lot of the pictures on the mosaics came from.
- **Honey** – sweet liquid that the Romans used to sweeten food.
- **lentaculum** – Roman word for breakfast.
- **Prandium** – Roman word for lunch.
- **Cena** - Roman word for dinner/evening meal.
- **Troclinium** - what the Romans called the dining room.
- **Imported food** – food brought over from other countries to the Roman Empire.

Key Knowledge

- Roman **mosaics** were very popular in homes and public building during the **Roman Empire**. There are many examples of **mosaics** that still exist today.
- They were very detailed and complicated. Roman **mosaics** were made up of hundreds, sometimes thousands, of tiny coloured **stones** and **gems** called **tesserae**.
- Each mosaic piece was stuck to the floor with **mortar**, a type of cement.
- **Mosaics** would show pictures of Roman history and everyday Roman life. These mosaic images provide an insight into what Roman life was like and how they lived.
- **Mosaic** floors were a sign of wealth and importance. They were used for **decoration**, and to show people how rich you were, were Roman mosaics were also very strong surfaces for walking on and were sometimes used as signs or for advertising.
- Roman **mosaics** were waterproof and easy to clean. This made mosaics very popular in public buildings and **Roman bathhouses**. They reflect light very well and were used to brighten up rooms.
- Designers of Roman mosaics were considered **craftsmen**, not artists. Unlike artists they would not sign their work or take credit for it.
- Mosaics in the city of **Pompeii**, an ancient city in southern Italy are some of the best in the world. Pompeii was burning under lava in 79 AD when the volcano Mount Vesuvius erupted. The layers of volcanic ash protected the **mosaics** and have kept them very well preserved.



- Romans ate a Mediterranean diet, consisting of lots of fruit and vegetables.
- They ate 3 meals a day but called it, **lentaculum** (breakfast), **prandium** (dinner) and **cena** (evening meal).
- They used **honey** in a lot of their cooking to sweeten it as sugar was not founded then.

Key Questions

- How long did it take to create a mosaic?
- Who invented the mosaic floor?
- Why did the Romans start making mosaics?
- What type of meat did the Romans eat?